

CONFIDENTIAL

N120

EXCISE

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

Ancon: Istanbul, Turkey

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 28, 1954

Department's Instruction CA-2425, November 2, 1953

ACTION	DEPT.	ASSIGNED TO
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SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Information on Albania

The following information on Albania, submitted with the instruction under reference, represents the continuation of the previous despatch No. 300 of January 14, 1954, and was obtained from the same refugee sources in Istanbul.

Further information on the subject will be forwarded to the Department when available.

VI. Political Refugees (Continued)

The Prizren Committee

After the break between Tito and the Soviets in 1948, Albania sided with Moscow and this brought about a break in the Yugoslav-Albanian relations. The Yugoslav military and civilian experts within Albania were expelled from the country shortly after the rupture of diplomatic relations. Approximately 3,000 Russian and 400 Bulgarian experts were brought to Albania to replace them.

Albanians wanting to escape the yoke of Enver Hoxha's regime, especially northern Albanians, began to emigrate to neighboring Yugoslavia where they were comparatively well received. Source estimated the number of Albanians who emigrated to Yugoslavia in the years 1948 to 1953 at between 10,000 to 12,000. With the full support of the Yugoslav Communist Party, a union was formed to incorporate the continually increasing number of Albanian emigrants. In May 1950, a congress was held in the town of Prizren where 300 delegates were chosen and these, in turn, had to elect a seven-man executive committee which was to act as a national council, or a temporary government in exile. The following were elected to form the seven-man central (or executive) committee:

1. Apostol TANEFI, chairman of the committee, a teacher from Korça.
2. Lutfi SPAHYA, vice president, a law school graduate from Luma
3. Hajrulla ISHMI, secretary general, gymnasium graduate

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4. Nik SOKOLI, committee member
5. Shaqir LUSHA, committee member
6. Yovan MENA, committee member
7. Ndue MARKU, committee member

This committee, known as Prizren Committee, which receives both moral and material support from the Yugoslav government, was soon developed to have divisions for military affairs, propaganda, press, education and social welfare. One of its first acts was to organize the formation of small partisan groups (from six to fifteen men each) which were sent into Albania at irregular intervals and which returned to Yugoslavia after performing acts of sabotage in Albania. The guerrillas also distributed anti-Soviet and anti-Enver pamphlets in Albania. The committee also edits two Albanian-language newspapers, the "Flamuri Liris" (Flag of Freedom) and the "Rilindja" (New Birth).

Source states that the aim of the Albanian National Committee in Yugoslavia is to overthrow the Enver Hoxha regime and then incorporate Albania into a federated Yugoslavia. He adds that 75 percent of the Albanians in Yugoslavia are anti-Communists, who, however, at present must cooperate with Tito's Communists to preserve their own lives. Source states that it has to be accepted without doubt that of the various Albanian groups in exile, the National Committee in Yugoslavia is the most powerful one and has had more effect, both outside and inside the country, than any other similar political group.

On the 15th of November, 1953, the 3rd Congress of the union was held in the town of Prishtina and the following members were elected to replace the outgoing executive committee:

1. Hayrulla ISHMI, chairman of the committee
2. Nik SOKOLI, assistant chairman
3. Ramadan SPAHIRJA, secretary general
4. Arif STARONA, committee member
5. Mark PASHKU, committee member
6. Martin CAMAJ, committee member
7. BARDHI, committee member

The former chairman, Spostol Tane and his assistant, Lutfi SPAHIRJA will act as advisors to the newly elected committee.

The sources state that there are no other organized Albanian exile groups aside from those mentioned previously.

The Turkish-Albanian Friendship Society in Istanbul is not a political organization. It was founded with the aim of strengthening the bonds of friendship between the Turkish and Albanian people. Its members are mostly Albanians who settled in

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Turkey many years ago, and the political emigrants of the past few years. Its close to eight hundred members steer clear of politics.

In the sources' opinion, the following are worthy leaders of the Albanian nation because they carry weight both with the exile groups and also with the people within Albania:

1. King Zog who has the absolute confidence of the majority of Albanians abroad, of about a million in Yugoslavia, and of those living under the yoke of Hoxha in Albania.

2. Mehdi Frasher, known for his many services to Albania and his clean political career is also a good leader but his advanced age keeps him from playing an active role in politics.

3. Gjon Marka Gjoni, leader of the Roman Catholic Albanians of the Mirdita region, at present living in Rome, is also a good leader

4. Ali Kelcyra; 5. Ismail Verlaci; 6. Abas Kupi; 7. Fidri Dina; 9. Hysen Selmani, are all leaders on a smaller scale who are popular in their native regions only, but who have played a role in the political life of their country.

Former Prime Minister Mustafa Kruja and Minister of the Interior Musa Yuka were two of the finest Albanian leaders, but they no longer take an active part in politics. Aside from the above-named persons, there are many educated and intellectual Albanians in the ranks of the emigrants but they are not yet known in Albania and do not have a wide following which is essential for any man who would have to work in Albania.

VII. Economic

General

Albania, which was a battle field from 1939 until 1945, lost its productivity in all fields. However, since 1945 her industrial output has increased every year and the area of arable land has also increased yearly. But, as the farmers are compelled to deliver almost all of their products to the state, the production is not up to standard. The government, acting on Moscow's orders, gives more importance to the growing of cotton, sunflower and hemp, so that the wheat and rye production has dropped to such low standards that the country does not produce enough grain to supply its population with bread. To cover its need for basic food stuffs, Albania has exported petroleum to Bulgaria and the Soviet Union in exchange for wheat and corn. The government has made some concessions to the farmers but the results of these will be seen in 1954, at the earliest.

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Industries

The Albanian industries, factories and their produce are listed below:

1. The "Stalin" textile factory in Tirana produces about twenty million meters of cotton goods per year as well as 600,000 meters of woollens.
2. In the "Enver" machine shop in Tirana, 800 workers produce firearms and manufacture motor and artillery spare parts.
3. The Tirana shoe factory and leather works produces 900,000 pair of shoes per year.
4. The glass factory in Tirana produces 200,000 square meters of plate glass per year, as well as 2,000 tons of glassware, such as glasses, pots and vases.
5. The sugar factory at Korca produced 10,000 tons of sugar per year.
6. The Tirana paper factory has an annual production of 5,000 tons of paper and cardboard.
7. Two cement factories at Shkodra and Vlona produce approximately 100,000 tons of cement per year.
8. The textile plant at Rogozhin processes 21,000 tons in its cotton gins and produces 600 tons of cotton and 900 tons of wool yarn per year.
9. The vegetable and fish canning factories each can 1,000 tons of products.
10. The petroleum refinery at Cerrik is nearing completion. Its capacity will be 150,000 tons of oil per year. A newly founded barrel factory in the same town will manufacture 300,000 metal barrels per year.
11. The new rice mill at Vlona processes 3,000 tons of rice yearly.
12. There are six modern flour mills and macaroni plants in the towns of Durs, Shkoder, Korca and Fierde.
13. The olive oil refineries in the towns of Elbasan and Avlonia produce yearly 5,500 tons of refined olive oil.
14. A knitting plant with 800 looms is in operation in the town of Korca.

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15. The country has five alcohol refineries and breweries.
 16. Three lumber yards of the Elbasan region produce 52,000 cubic meters of construction lumber per year.
 17. A factory near Selenica produces yearly 80 to 100,000 tons of pure asphalt.
 18. Various cigarette manufacturing plants in the country produce about 2,000 tons of cigarettes per year.

Electric Power:

1. Two hydro-electric power stations. "Lenin" near Tirana yields 25,000 kilowatts and "Enver" near Burrel (not yet completed) is planned to yield 20,000 kilowatts.
2. Five thermoelectric stations in various towns produce 27,000 kilowatts.
3. Eight small-sized "Mikroyazovi" (dam) stations yield a total of 8,000 kilowatts.

Mines, Oil Wells and Refineries:

1. Six hundred eighty oil wells in the Patas and Kucova region yield 250,000 to 500,000 tons per year. Production is hampered by lack of machinery and skilled personnel.
2. One hundred twenty thousand tons of chrome ore are extracted from the mines of the Kukes, Klos and Pogradec regions. All of this ore is exported to the Soviet Union.
3. The mine and refinery at Rubik yields 1,000 tons of high grade copper per year.
4. The two coal mines near Kraba and Memaligaj yield 40,000 tons of coal yearly.

Iron, manganese, bauxite and nickel mines have also been discovered but are not yet under exploitation.

Agricultural Production:

The total area of arable land in Albania is 262,000 hectares. Most of the arable land is used to grow wheat, maize, cotton, rice, rye, oats, tobacco and sugar beets. The yearly produce per crop is as follows (average):

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Wheat - 1,900 to 2,500 tons
Maize - 3,000 to 6,000 tons. Maize bread is the nation's most important foodstuff
Rice - 1,000 tons
Cotton - 10,000 to 12,000 tons
Sugar beets - 80,000 to 100,000 tons
Tobacco - 2,000 to 2,500 tons
Mixed crop (other than listed above) - 6,000 tons.

Only 16 percent of the land in Albania is under cultivation; 30 percent is meadow-land and pasturage, 36 percent is forests, and the rest is swamp land. There are an estimated 1,900,000 olive trees and 3,200,000 fruit trees in Albania. Livestock is divided as follows: 900,000 head of cattle and 1,350,000 head of sheep and goats. As slaughtering is state controlled and meat consumption is very low, the herds are on the increase.

All farm produce must be delivered to the cooperatives, which in turn distribute the goods to the population through a ration card system. There are three types of ration cards: for heavy workers, for grownups, and for children. Those not possessing ration cards must buy food on the black market. This system ensures almost complete enforced employment for the entire nation.

Salaries:

White collar workers earn from 3,000 to 10,000 lek per month. Foreign experts and technicians (Soviet and satellite) receive two or three times as much. Workers' wages vary from 80 to 250 lek per day. The official exchange rate of the lek is 50 lek for one U.S. dollar. However, the lek has absolutely no value on foreign exchanges.

Prices:

Three months ago, the state cooperative stores sold 100 kilos of maize flour (free, not on ration cards) for 7,000 lek; one kilo of olive oil for 500 lek; one kilo of cheese for 250 lek; one meter of woolen cloth for 1500-2000 lek; one meter of cotton fabric for 300-500 lek. One liter of petroleum costs 30 lek; one kilo of sugar 350 lek, one kilo of salt 30 lek.

Imports and Exports:

Albania's external trade is almost exclusively with the Soviet Union and her satellites. The country's most common imports are arms and ammunition, automobiles and spare parts, tires, electrical appliances, pipes for oil pipe-lines and waterways and medical supplies. In exchange for these goods, Albania exports petroleum, ores and other raw materials.

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Textiles and similar products were brought to Albania in tremendous quantities by the invading Italians. Source states that even today one can buy British woollens in state stores of the capital.

Reserves of Supplies:

According to the source, there are no reserves for the use of the civilian population. Large underground store houses hold all sorts of supplies for the army. It is reported that these supplies can cover all needs of the armed forces over a period of six months.

Miscellaneous

Albania gets her experts from the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, and of late, from Eastern Germany. Almost all factories have foreign directors. Work competitions among the workers are very common. Stakhanovists and shock-workers form a privileged class among the workers. Thirty eight agricultural training centers have been opened all over the country, where Albanian and foreign agricultural experts teach the farmers the use of modern farm machinery and the modern methods of agriculture.

Five Year Plan

A two year plan had been planned for the years 1949-1951 to increase the industrial and agricultural output of the country. This plan had been carried out more or less successfully. A Five Year plan for 1951-1955 is at present being carried out. Twenty-one billion leks have been set aside outside the regular budgetary figures to finance the great demands of the Five Year Plan. East German and Soviet experts are entrusted with the execution of this far-reaching economic plan. According to Enver Hoxha's declaration, by 1955 the living standard in Albania should improve by 215 percent and the ration card system should disappear completely.

The Aims of Albania's Five Year Plan as Announced on May 19, 1952.

1. 2,000 additional schools and 150,000 students. Illiteracy should disappear entirely.
2. Production in the mines should increase by 1,123 percent in comparison with 1939.
3. Oil production should increase by 200 percent and 181 kilometers of pipe-line should be laid.
4. Electric power production should increase by 395 percent.

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5. Heavy industry should increase by 445 percent.

6. Building construction should increase by 3247 percent.

7. Cultivated land should reach 385,000 hectares. The various agricultural products should increase as follows: Wheat 295 percent, maize 110 percent, rice 1,000 percent, sugar beet 530 percent, cotton 1650 percent, olive oil 270 percent, reforestation 2,790 percent.

8. Roads and highways should increase by 1,540 percent, railroads by 926 percent.

9. The number of skilled workers should reach 64,000 and that of foremen and technicians 8,500.

10. 1,800 students should be attending the university.

11. The seats in movie houses and theaters should increase by 168 percent.

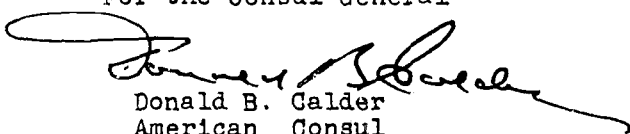
12. Three central hospitals, 13 rural hospitals and 30 medical centers should be completed.

13. Living quarters for the workers and state employees should be built to cover a total area of 586,000 square meters at a cost of 2,940,000,000 lek.

14. The population should be able to buy 200 percent more meat and fish, 235 percent more fats, 192 percent more sugar and 245 percent more textile products in comparison with 1950.

The above goal was set by the Albanian Communist regime and should theoretically be attained by 1955.

For the Consul General


Donald B. Calder
American Consul

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